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July 6th, 1852.

Dr. **Elwyn** in the Chair.

A paper was presented from Professor S. F. Baird and Mr. Charles Girard, intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Characteristics of some new Reptiles in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution," which was referred to Dr. Hallowell, Dr. Le Conte, and Dr. Leidy.

Dr. Wetherill read a paper intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Further examination of the Phœnixville Molybdate of Lead." Referred to Mr. Ashmead, Mr. Vaux, and Dr. Rand.

Dr. Wetherill read a second paper, entitled "Chemical examination of the food of the Queen Bee." Referred to Dr. Bridges, Dr. Rand, and Mr. Vaux.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, dated June 21st, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of No. 2, Vol. 6, and index and title page Vol. 5, of the Proceedings.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to a fragment of a fossil ox head, found by Dr. Samuel Brown in a creek emptying into the Ohio river, and now deposited in the cabinet of the Academy by the American Philosophical Society. Notwithstanding its larger size and its locality, Cuvier considered it the same as the Bos priscus. Harlan named it Bos latifrons. It belongs to a species of Bison, and is, with very little doubt, distinct from the Bison priscus, and should be called Bison latifrons.

Another fragment exhibited belonged to a smaller animal. The horn core is relatively more conoidal and curved than in Bison latifrons. The specimen was found at Big-bone-lick, Kentucky, and probably indicates a distinct species, for which the name Bison antiquus was proposed.

Dr. L. further stated he had been studying the extinct Edentata of North America, and had come to the conclusion, that there were probably four species of Megalonyx, M. Jeffersonii, Harlan, M. laqueatus, Harlan, ?M. potens, *Leidy*, and M. dissimilis, *Leidy;* one species of Mylodon, the M. Harlani, *Owen;* and one species of Megatherium, which is probably distinct from that of South America, and might be called with propriety M. mirabile, Leidy. The jaw figured by Prof. Owen, in the Voyage of the Beagle, Foss. Mam. pl. xxix, Dr. L. observed, he was satisfied did not belong to the Megalonyx Jeffersonii, as supposed by Mr. Owen, but to a new genus and species, for which the name Gnathopsis Oweni was proposed.

July 13th.

Vice President **Bridges** in the Chair.

A letter was read from Professor J. P. Kirtland, dated East Rockport, Ohio, June 26th, 1822, accompanying the donations announced at a late meeting of the Academy.

Also a letter from Dr. Johannes Gistl, dated Munich, April 21st, 1852, accompanying his donations to the Library announced this evening.

Dr. Genth read a paper describing a new mineral, Rhodophyllite, which was referred to Mr. Vaux, Dr. Wetherill, and Dr. Bridges.

Dr. Owen, in presenting to the Society a specimen of Fusulina Limestone, and Tutenmergel, made the following remarks:—

The specimen of Fusulina cylindrica is from the carboniferous limestone on the west side of the Missouri river, below Fort Kearney. One bed of limestone there is a complete agglutinated mass of this interesting little foraminiferous shell, which is almost the form and size of a grain of wheat, so that those unacquainted with the fossil take it to be "*petrified wheat.*"

Previous to its discovery on the Missouri river, during the geological survey made by me in 1849, it had been found, I believe, only in isolated specimens in a siliceous stratum towards the base of the coal measures of Ohio. In Europe it has only been found in Russia. Both in this country and Europe it appears to be confined to the carboniferous rocks.

The specimen of Tutenmergel is from Keeth's Rapid, on the Des Moines river, Iowa, where it occurs in great perfection in very perfect cones with a fine crimped surface, and possessing internally the structure of Arragonite. The Tutenmergel of this locality proves to my mind that its form cannot be due to simple shrinkage of the strata, as believed by most persons, but is a crystallization, with simultaneous infiltration of calcareous waters—a stalactitic formation, not in the atmosphere, but within the substance of its argillaceous matrix.

The bed at Keeth's Rapid is only four or five inches thick; but it occurs in much thicker beds—nine inches or more—lower down near Amsterdam and elsewhere on the Des Moines, but not in as pure a form, and almost of a black color, while the Keeth bed is almost as colorless as calc spar.

July 20th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read

From Professor Lepsius, dated Berlin, June 20th, 1852, accompanying his donation to the Library announced this evening.

From Dr. Samuel Webber, of Charlestown, New Hampshire, accompanying specimens of the fins and tail of a Fish, in the substance of which were numerous hard granules. The letter also enclosed the following communication on the subject:—

"In the town of Unity, about twelve miles from the place of my residence, is a small body of water known by the name of *Cold Pond.* It abounds with fish of the kind usually found in such waters, viz., roach, bream, perch and pickerel. They are plump, firm, and well flavored, but almost uneatable in consequence of a peculiarity which I have never observed nor heard of in these kinds of fish in other localities. This peculiarity is that through the bodies of these fish are scattered numerous small blackish grains of a globular form, and of about the size of mustard seed, quite hard, and which annoy the teeth so much in the act of mastication, as to take away all comfort of eating. Sometimes these little bodies are single, sometimes clustered together more or less. They pervade even the fins and tail, as may be seen by some specimens that I forward in company with this brief sketch. Of the nature and cause of this unusual condition of the fish, or of the substance of these little pellets, nothing is known. It has been conjectured that the water of the pond is more or less impregnated, in parts at least considerably, by some mineral spring, and that the particles of some mineral held in solution by it, are taken into the circulation of the fish, and by some process of decomposition are deposited in small tubercular aggregations in the various parts of the body."